AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION
(Amendments are illustrated by showing deletions ~~by strikethrough~~ and additions by underlining)

The following application page references correspond to the publication of the international application PCT/US99/28929 (WO 00/34332) which the present national filing is based.

1. Please amend page 9, the first full paragraph, i.e. lines 3-19, to appear as follows:

-- With the exception of the N-terminal amino acid, all abbreviations (e.g. Ala) of amino acids in this disclosure stand for the structure of -NH-CH(R)-CO-, wherein R is the side chain of an amino acid (e.g., CH_3 for Ala). For the N-terminal amino acid, the abbreviation stands for the structure of (R^2R^3)-N-CH(R)-CO-, wherein R is a side chain of an amino acid and R^2 and R^3 are as defined above except in the case where A^7 is Ura, Paa, Pta or Hppa in which case R^2 and R^3 are not present since Ura, Paa, Pta and Hppa are considered here as des-amino amino acids. The abbreviations: β-Nal, Nle, Cha, Amp, 3-Pal, 4-Pal and Aib stand for the following α-amino acids: β-(2-naphthyl)alanine, norleucine, cyclohexylalanine, 4-amino-phenylalanine, β-(3-pyridinyl)alanine, β-(4-pyridinyl)alanine and α-aminoisobutyric acid, respectively. Other amino acid definitions are: Ura is urocanic acid; Pta is (4-pyridylthio) acetic acid; Paa is *trans*-3-(3-pyridyl) acrylic acid; Tma-His is N,N-tetramethylamidino-histidine; N-Me-Ala is N-methyl-alanine; N-Me-Gly is N-methyl-glycine; N-Me-Glu is N-methyl-glutamic acid; Tle is *tert*-butylglycine; Abu is α-aminobutyric acid; Tba is *tert*-butylalanine; Orn is ornithine; Aib is α-aminoisobutyric acid; β-Ala is β-alanine; Gaba is γ-aminobutyric acid; Ava is 5-aminovaleric

acid; ~~and~~ Aic is 2-aminoindane-2-carboxylic acid; and Hppa is 3-(p-hydroxyphenyl)propionic acid.--